[President.]

Company to meet unforeseen expenses. The details of the works are given in the memorandum attached to the draft Budget.

WAYS AND MEANS.

16. The opening cash balance of the year 1097 was Rs. 37¼ lakhs. The net result of the transactions of the year under Ordinray and Debt heads is an excess of incomings over outgoings of Rs. 3¼ lakhs. Deducting an outgoing of Rs. ½ lakh on account of capital expenditure not charged to revenue, the cash balance at the close of 1097 is expected to be Rs. 40 lakhs. The transactions, both under Ordinary and Debt heads in 1098, are estimated to bring in cash to the extent of Rs. 3½ lakhs. Deducting the capital expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh on the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway, the closing cash balance of 1098 is expected to be Rs. 42½ lakhs.

PRESIDENT: Under Rule 47 of the Legislative Council Rules, the debate on the Budget which has now been presented by the Financial Secretary will begin with a general discussion and the voting of demands for grants will follow this discussion. The 24th and the 25th July are allotted for the general discussion. The discussion of the demands and the voting on them will commence on the 29th instant and go on to the 5th August, excluding the 30th instant which is a holiday. The demands will be discussed in the order in which they have been printed in the statement, a copy of which has been already placed in your hands. The maximum period admissible under Rule 49 (1) for dealing with the demands is seven days and it will be seen that this maximum has been allotted. Three days out of the seven will be taken up by (1) Land Revenue, (2) Education, and (3) Public Works, each of these demands being given not more than one day. The remaining demands will have to be dealt with as expeditiously as possible and not more than half a day can be allotted to any of these demands. At the end of the time allotted for the discusssion of each demand, all pending motions in respect of that demand will automatically lapse and at 5 O' clock on the evening of the last of the allotted days, every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with the demands for grants will be put by the President under Rule 49 (3).

These circumstances render it necessary to allot time limits for speeches. During the general discussion stage, each member will have 15 minutes and the Financial Secretary 30 minutes, to enable him to exercise his general right of reply at the end of that discussion. During the second stage, *i.e.*, in the voting of demands for grants, every mover and the official member who has the right of final reply will have ten minutes each and the other members five minutes each.

Members will kindly note from Standing Order No. 56 that notice of every motion to omit or reduce a grant has to be given to the Secretary to the Council *five clear days* before the day on which the demand is to be considered. In sending up motions it is necessary that the members

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should state the specific item in the Budget in respect of which the omission or reduction is proposed, and, in doing so, it would facilitate discussion and conduce to the convenience of both the official and non-official members, if the movers would indicate in a general manner the grounds on which they propose to bring forward the motion in each case.

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, the Destruction of Records Bill with the Statement of Objects and Reasons has been published in the Gazette, and it is, therefore, not necessary for me to obtain leave for introducing it. I, therefore, beg to move that the Bill be read in Council.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: I beg to second the motion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: The motion for introducing the Bill having been seconded, I beg to lay before the Council the main principles of the Bill.

The Destruction of Records Regulation, III of 1057, was passed more than 40 years ago, and it is therefore time that it should be revised. Under Section 3 of the existing Regulation it is enacted that the Dewan and the High Court shall submit to the Palace quarterly lists of records destroyed. It will, I believe, be within the knowledge of the members of the Council that this entails considerable labour on the clerical establishment and is absolutely unnecessary, for the list of records to be destroyed is published in the Gazette and the destruction only takes place thereafter. After the destruction, it may be enough if an annual list is sent to the Government by the officers concerned; and no quarterly list is, therefore, necessary. But the provision finding a place in the Regulation itself, it has to be obeyed, and, as I have submitted, it entails unnecessary labour. It is, therefore, proposed to delete the section and to make the necessary provision in the rules which may be framed for the purpose under the Regulation. Whether the lists should be annual or half-yearly may be left to the discretion of the Government, and the officer concerned may submit the list in accordance therewith. While amending the Regulation for this particular purpose, opportunity has been taken to see that the Regulation is also revised in other respects. Our Regulation followed the old British Indian Act of 1879 which has since been revised by an Act of 1917. That Act, though generally following the previous Act, has made some modification, I may say, in phraseology, and this is mainly due to the improved method of drafting. I may say that, under the existing Regulation, the Dewan has to frame rules for the destruction of records in the Revenue Courts and other offices, the High Court has to frame Rules with reference to itself and the courts subordinate to it, and all these rules are to be passed by Government, so that, subject to the approval of Government, these respective authorities are competent to frame rules. In the new Bill it is provided that the High Court and for the Revenue Department the Land Revenue Commissioner

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